

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BF

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - GCOB REQUEST FOR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS
RE ATLANTA ROUTE

REF: (A) NASSAU 1126; (B) STATE 39150 DATED 2/27/74

1. ALTHOUGH A YEAR HAS PASSED SINCE USG INDICATED THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE NO BASIS ON WHICH TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE GRANTING OF A ROUTE BETWEEN THE BAHAMAS AND ATLANTA, THERE HAVE BEEN NO DEVELOPMENTS MODIFYING THE FACTORS WHICH CAUSE USG TO BE NEGATIVE TOWARD THIS REQUEST. OUR RELUCTANCE TO GRANT ROUTE RIGHTS REMAINS BASED ON CONSIDERATIONS EXPRESSED REFTEL B AND ON CONTINUING CONCERN THAT BAHAMIAN LOW FARE FLIGHTS TO EUROPE COULD DIVERT TRAFFIC FROM US CARRIERS.

2. EMBASSY MAY RESPOND TO GCOB REQUEST WITH REPLY NOTE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

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" ... AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL

AFFAIRS' NOTE DATED JULY 10 RENEWING THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS TO CONSULT WITH THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES ON THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING AN AIR ROUTE BETWEEN ATLANTA, GEORGIA AND THE

BAHAMAS. THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INFORM THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS NOT ABLE TO GIVE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION AT THIS TIME TO THE OPENING OF ADDITIONAL AIR ROUTES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE BAHAMAS FOR AIRLINES OF EITHER COUNTRY IN VIEW OF CONTINUING ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTIES AFFECTING INTERNATIONAL AVIATION. IT IS FURTHER NOTED, THAT NO UNITED STATES AIRLINE IS CURRENTLY CERTIFICATED BY THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES TO OPERATE DIRECTLY BETWEEN ATLANTA AND THE BAHAMAS AND THAT UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT POLICY DOES NOT ENVISAGE AT THIS TIME A GRANT OF UNILATERAL ROUTE AUTHORITY TO ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY.

"ACCORDINGLY, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SUGGESTS THAT ANY CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE BAHAMAS CONCERNING CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS BE POSTPONED UNTIL A MORE PROPITIOUS TIME IN THE FUTURE.

(COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE.)"

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